

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

156 US \$2.25



SEGA®

THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



DIRECT EDITION



15611>

7 62816 46977 7

SAFORD

FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST JOINING US, PRINCESS SALLY HAS JUST WED ANTOINE D'COOLETTE...

YOU MAY NOW KISS THE BRIDE!

AND FOR THOSE OF YOU STILL STUNNED BY THE TURN OF EVENTS DEPICTED LAST ISSUE, WE DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO THE HAPPY COUPLE...

I FEEL AWFUL!

THIS IS NOT THE WEDDING DAY I ALWAYS IMAGINED!

SACRE BLEU! I AM JUST A STEP AWAY FROM BECOMING LE KING!

IT WON'T BE MUCH LONGER--

--BEFORE KING ACORN LIES DEAD, ENABLING ME TO SEIZE LE CROWN!

SMILE FOR THE CAMERAS, MY QUEEN!

OUR SUBJECTS EXPECT OUR BEST!

THE THINGS ONE DOES IN THE NAME OF DUTY!

EXACTLY!

BUT WHAT OF
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG

DOES HE NO LONGER
CARE FOR THE FAIR
SALLY? HAVE THE
TWO GROWN THAT
FAR APART?

IN A WORD,
NO.

FOR IF THE PRINCESS OF
ACORN COULD SEE HER
TRUE BELOVED, SHE
WOULD FIND HIM MEETING
WITH THE ONE BEING
CAPABLE OF ALTERING
THE COURSE OF EVENTS...

--AND SO
I CAME TO
YOU--

--TO--TO
ASK--

--IF YOU CAN
SAVE SALLY FROM
MAKING THE
BIGGEST
MISTAKE OF
HER LIFE!

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**LINE OF
SUCCESSION**
Part 2

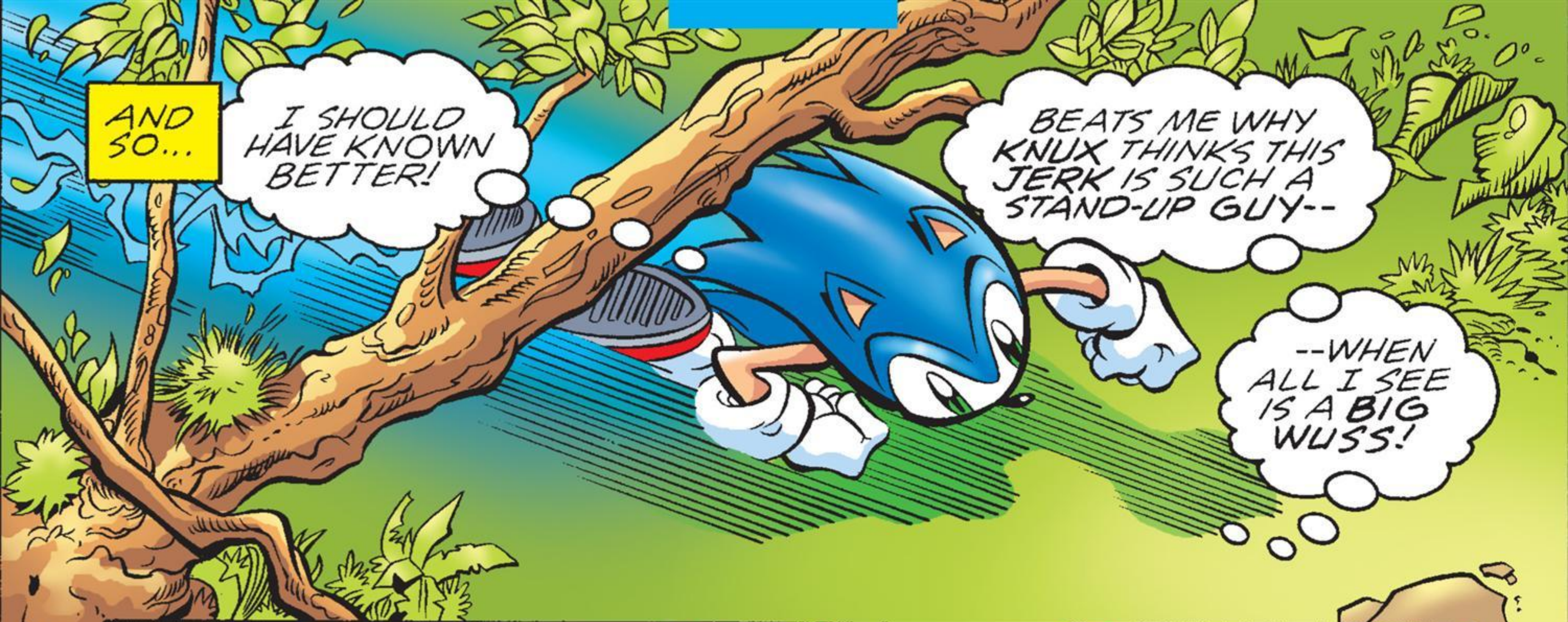
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Special Thanks to
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SEGA Licensing

SALLY HAS
EARNED HER
RIGHT TO BE
QUEEN!

FOR ME TO
INTERFERE
AT THIS HOUR
WOULD BE
UNCONSCION-
ABLE!

BUT--

THAT IS
ALL! THIS
MEETING IS
OVER!



AND
SO...

I SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
BETTER!

BEATS ME WHY
KNUX THINKS THIS
JERK IS SUCH A
STAND-UP GUY--

--WHEN
ALL I SEE
IS A **BIG**
WUSS!



WASN'T IT THE
MOST **BEAUTIFUL**
CEREMONY,
IRVING?

THAT IT WAS,
SARAH!

"CEREMONY"?
"WAS"???

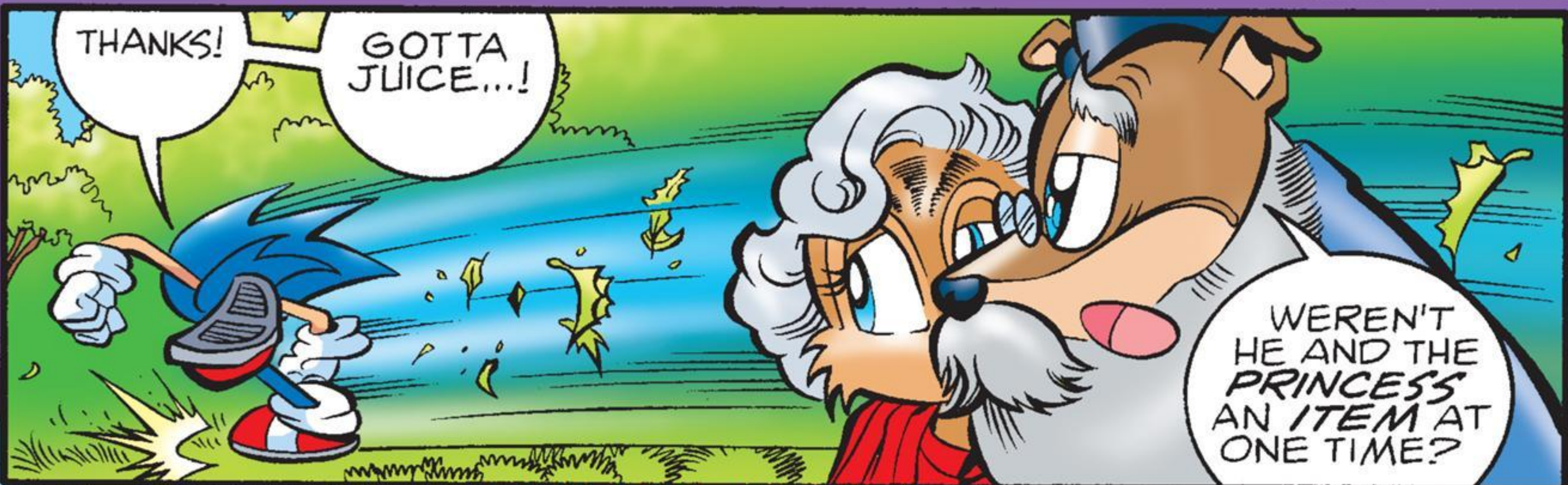
AM I TOO
LATE?



EXCUSE ME,
BUT WHERE'S
THE **WEDDING**
TAKING
PLACE?

OH, YOU JUST
MISSED IT!

THE **COUPLE** AND
ALL THE **GUESTS**
ARE NOW AT THE
BANQUET
HALL!



THANKS!

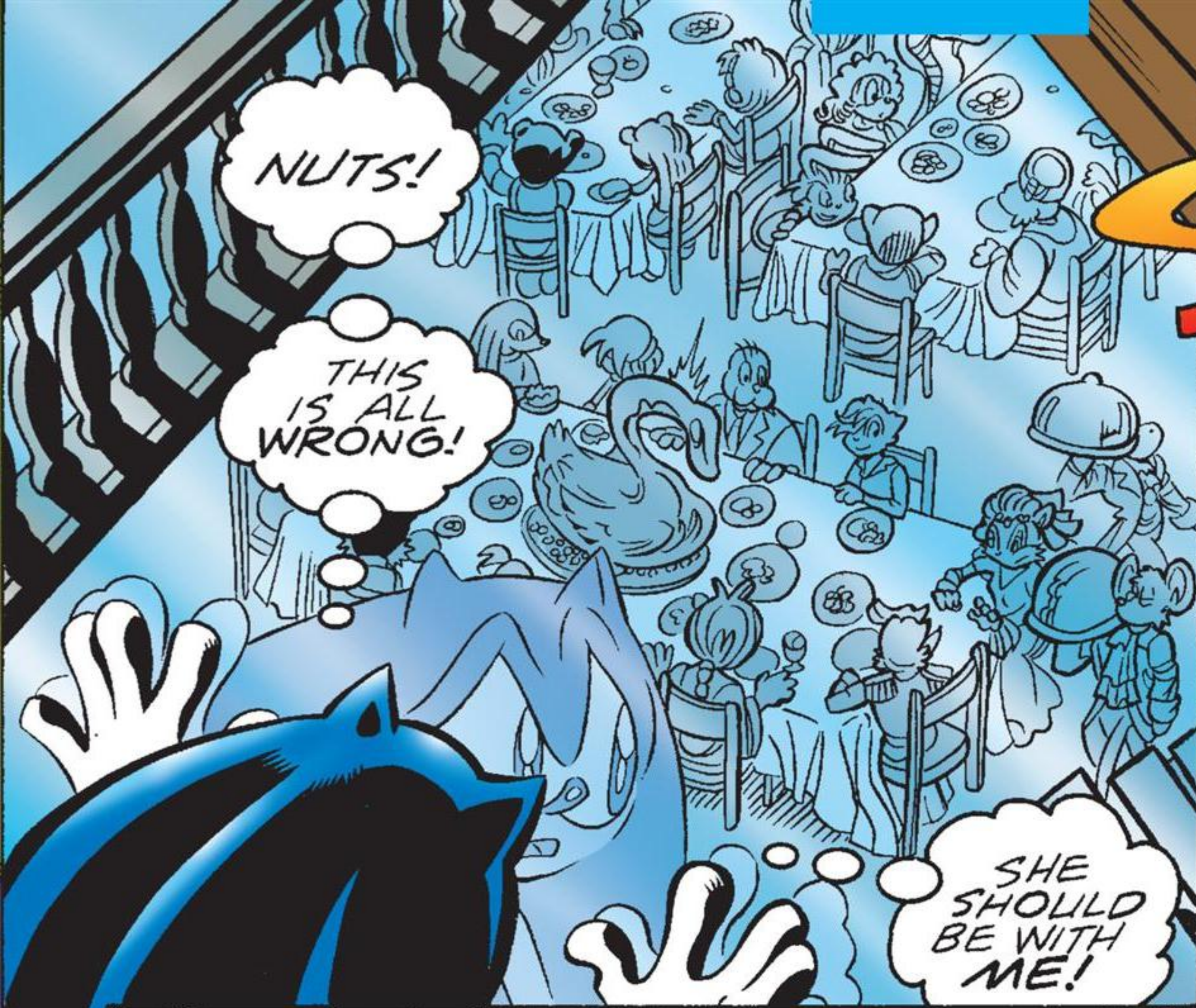
GOTTA
JUICE...!

WEREN'T
HE AND THE
PRINCESS
AN **ITEM** AT
ONE TIME?



WHAT I
DON'T GET
IS--WHY
NOW?

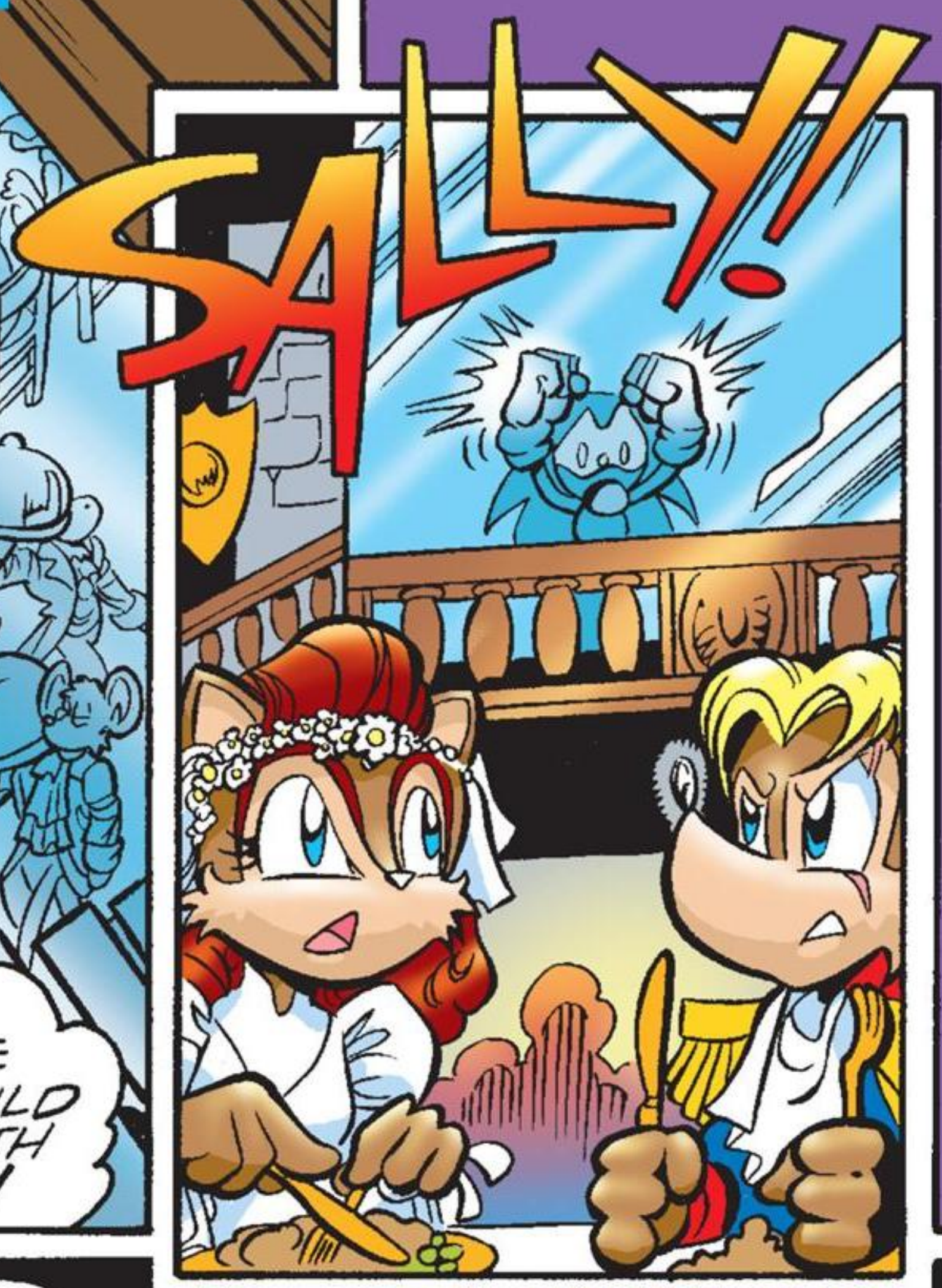
AND IF I HAD
STAYED AT HER
SIDE, WOULD WE
BE DOING THE
SAME?



NUTS!

THIS IS ALL WRONG!

SHE SHOULD BE WITH ME!



SALLY!



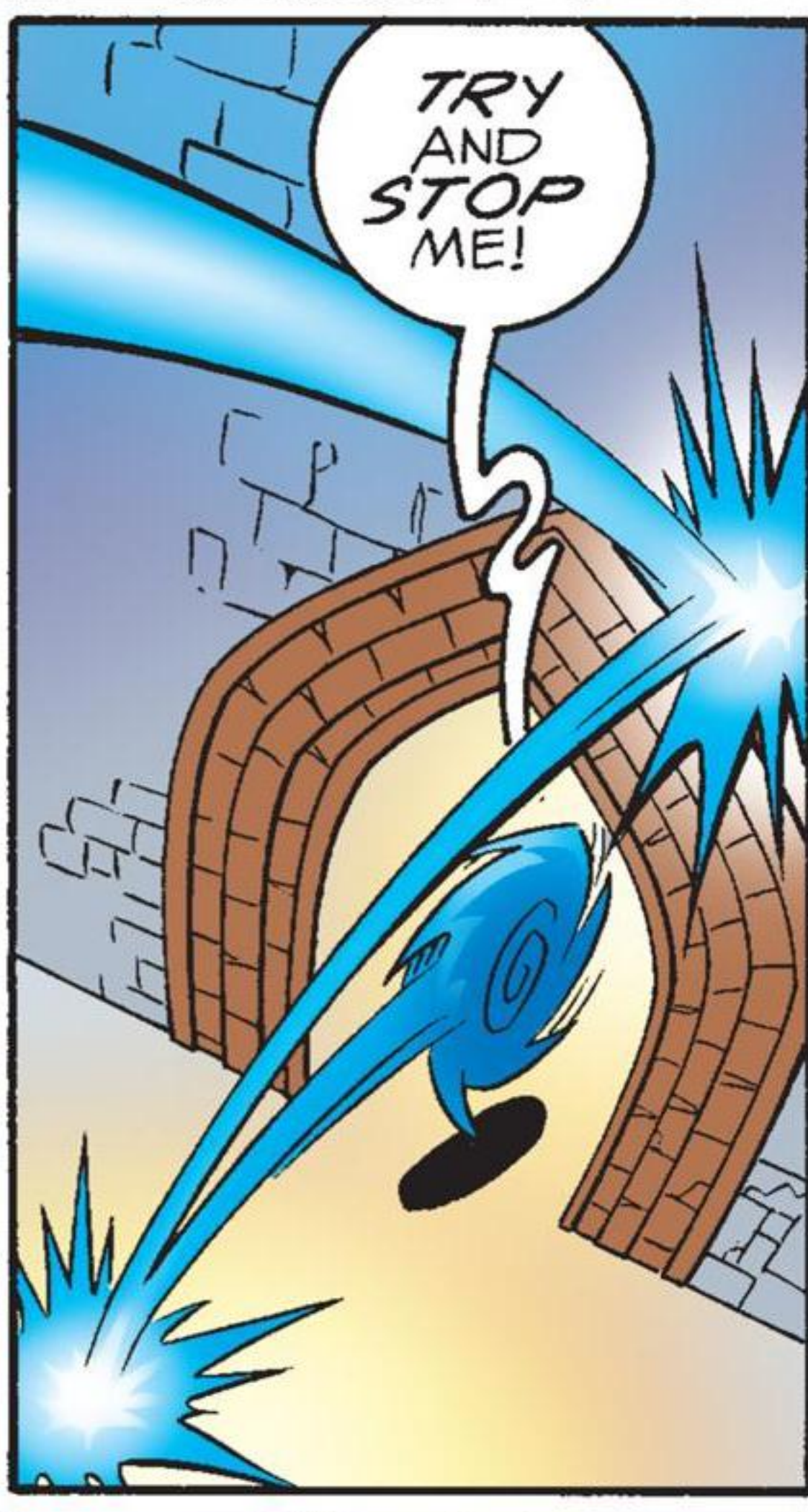
GET OUT OF MY WAY!

I'M SORRY, SONIC, BUT THE COMMANDER LEFT ORDERS IN CASE YOU CRASHED THE PARTY!

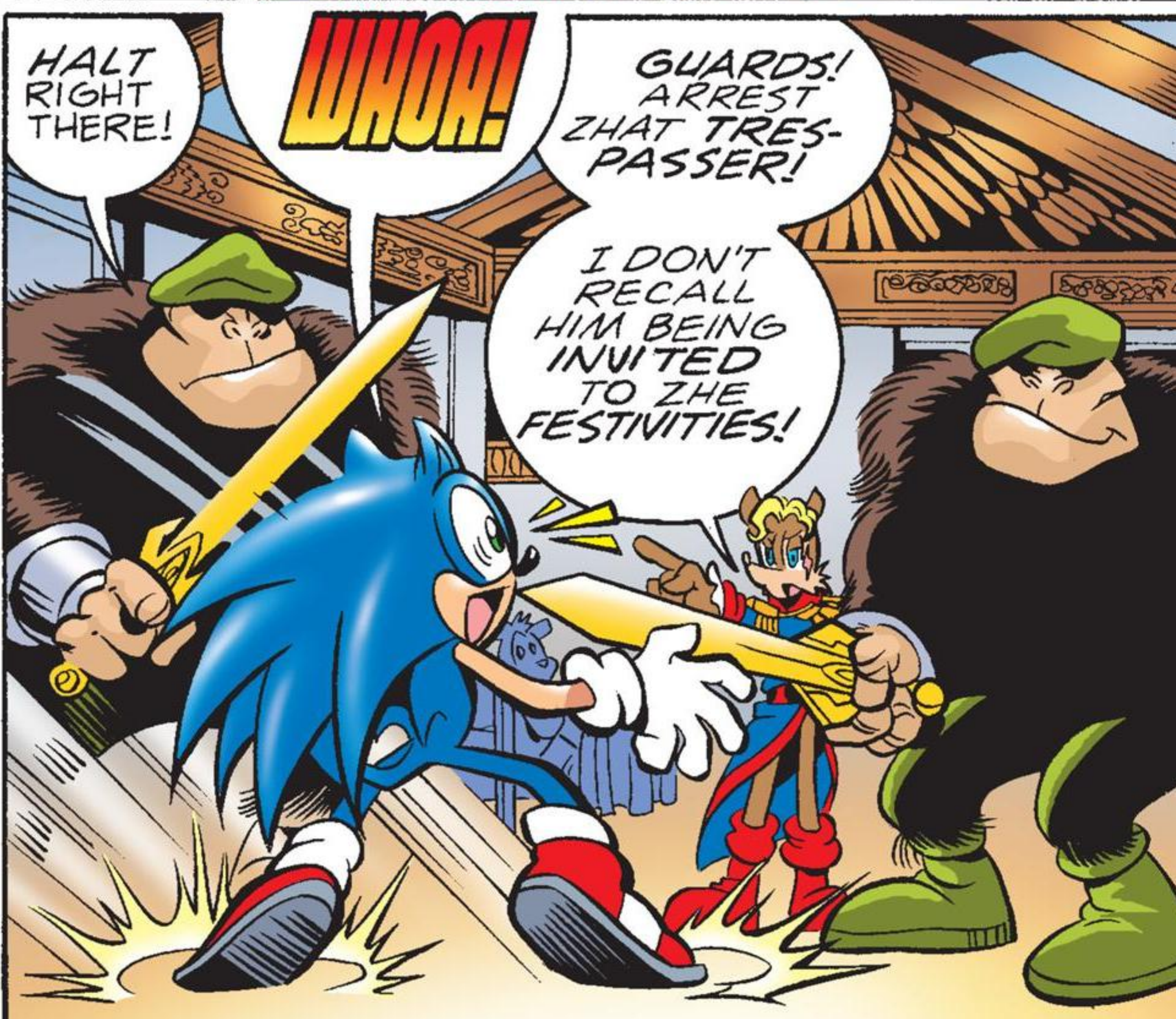


YEAH?

WELL--



TRY AND STOP ME!

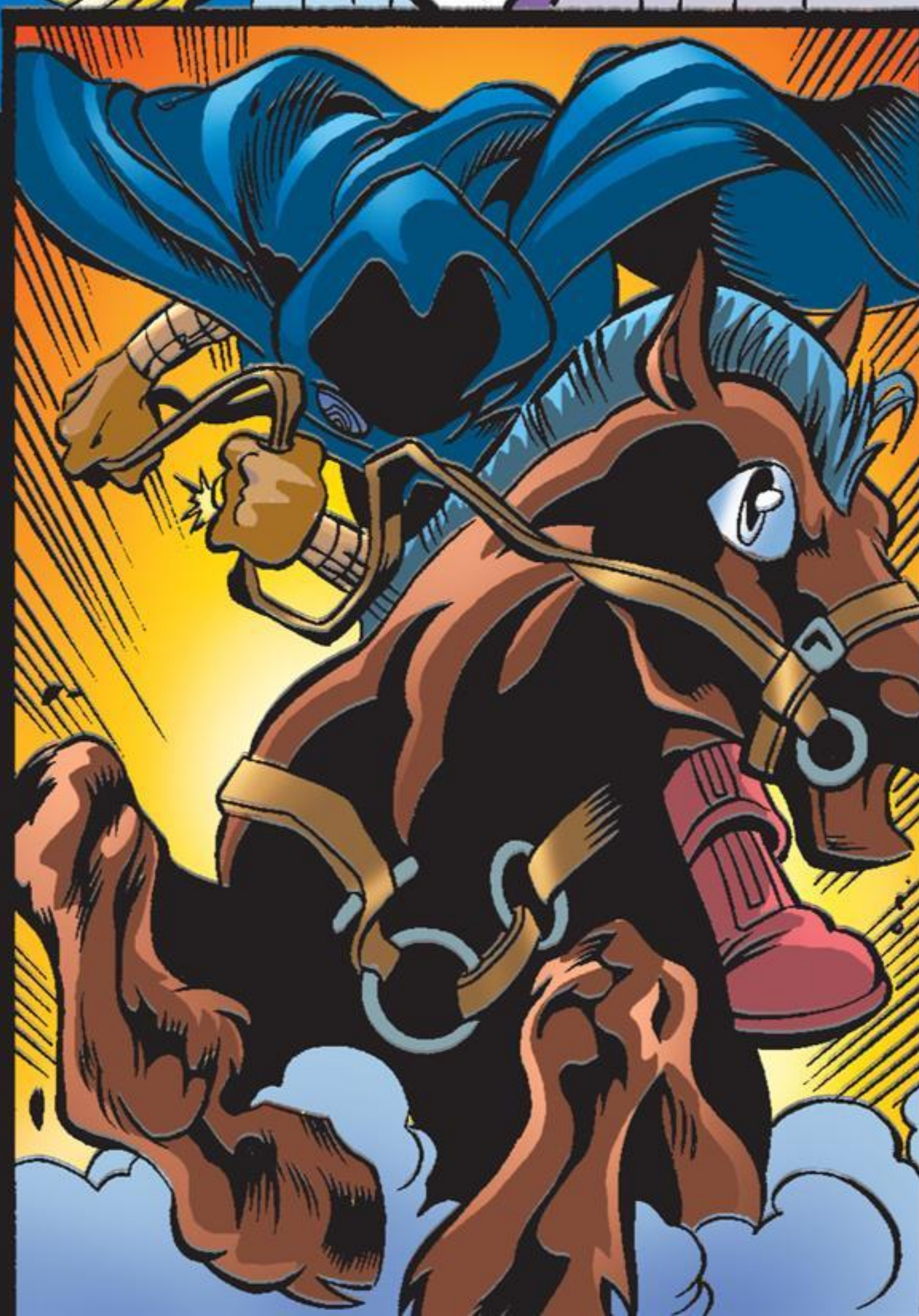


HALT RIGHT THERE!

WHOA!

GUARDS! ARREST ZHAT TRES-PASSER!

I DON'T RECALL HIM BEING INVITED TO ZHE FESTIVITIES!





I BELIEVE
MY
CREDENTIALS
SPEAK FOR
THEMSELVES,
WOULDN'T
YOU SAY?

HALT!

ONLY
AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL ARE
ALLOWED
BEYOND THIS
POINT!



UH...ER...YES,
ABSOLUTELY,
YOUR--

"NOW...COULD
SOMEONE PLEASE
EXPLAIN TO ME
WHY ALL THIS
SECURITY ON
THIS MOST
FESTIVE OF
OCCASIONS?"



THE LONGER
I PROLONG
THIS, THE MORE
I RISK
DISCOVERY!

ZEREFOR, TONIGHT--

--LE KING
MUST DIE!



"BUT THE COMMANDER
SAID NO VISITORS!?"



AND SINCE
WHEN DOES
A COMMANDER
OUTRANK A
MEMBER OF
THE ROYAL
FAMILY?!

OPEN THE
CELL DOOR
AT ONCE!

I DON'T
BELIEVE
IT!



PRINCE
ELIAS!!!

BUT
HOW--?





OR MORE
TO THE
POINT--

--WHY
?

I THOUGHT
YOU SAID THERE
WASN'T ANY
REASON FOR
YOU TO GET
INVOLVED!

I THOUGHT
SO, TOO--

--BUT AS
MY WIFE
MEG
POINTED OUT,
THESE ARE
DANGEROUS
TIMES!

AND NOTHING
IS **MORE**
DANGEROUS
THAN THE
TRANSFER-
ENCE OF
POWER!

WHAT DANGER?
SALLY BECOMES
QUEEN! **BIG**
DEAL!

AHH--BUT WHAT
IF SHE CHOOSES
TO **ELEVATE**
HER HUSBAND...

--TO
KING?

ANTOINE
?

HE'S NOT MY **FAVORITE**
CUPCAKE BY ANY STRETCH,
BUT I CAN'T BUY HIM
BEING **DISLOYAL!**

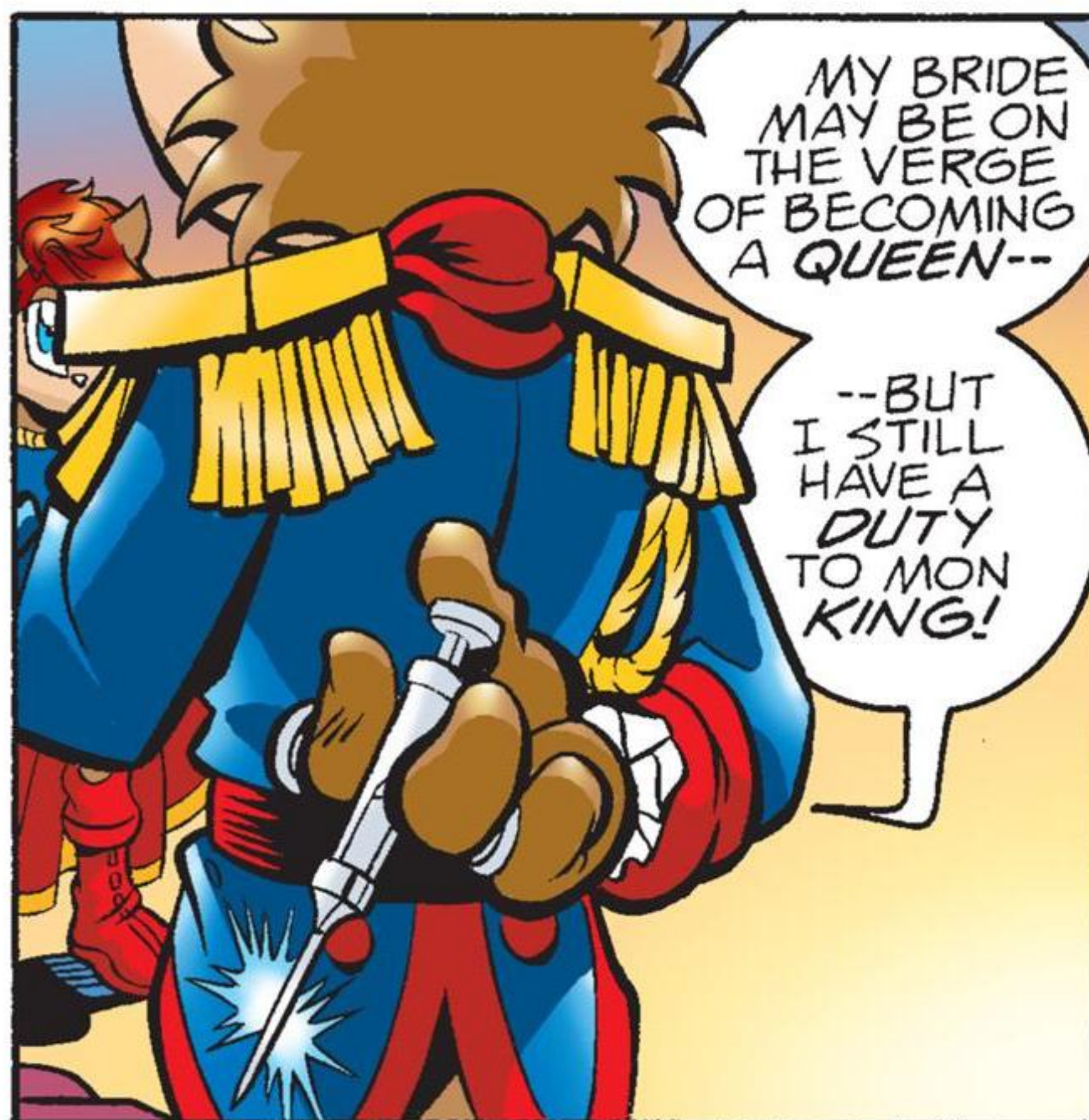
NEVERTHE-
LESS, THE **ONLY**
WAY TO BE
CERTAIN IS FOR
ME TO CLAIM
THE CROWN!

FATHER?

**KNOCK
KNOCK!**

COMMANDER
D'COOLETTE?

SHOULDN'T
YOU BE **DOWN-**
STAIRS WITH
YOUR **BRIDE** IN
THE BANQUET
HALL?



MY BRIDE
MAY BE ON
THE VERGE
OF BECOMING
A QUEEN--

--BUT
I STILL
HAVE A
DUTY
TO MON
KING!

I CAN ONLY HOPE YOU'LL
SHOW ME THE SAME
SENSE OF DUTY ONCE I
ASSUME THE CROWN!

YOU,
YOUR HIGH-
NESS?



ZHAT WILL COME AS A
COMPLETE *SURPRISE*
TO ZHE QUEEN
MOTHER!

ZHE
SWINE!

AFTER
ALL MY
CAREFUL
PLANNING,
MONTHS OF
PATIENCE--

--ALL FOR NAUGHT
BECAUSE ZIS PEEG
OF A SON DECIDES
HE'S NOW A MAN?!

MON
DIEU!
NOT
IN ZIS
LIFE-
TIME!



LE KING
CAN WAIT!

ZIS
BLEMISH
ON MOBIL'S
MUST BE
DEALT WITH
FIRST!

I'M GOING NOW
TO REJOIN YOUR
SISTER AND
MOTHER!

WOULD ZHE
BOTH OF YOU
CARE TO
JOIN ME?



BEFORE LONG,
BACK AT THE
BANQUET HALL...

ONCE MY
NEW HUSBAND
REJOINS US--

--WE CAN
COMMENCE
WITH THE
CORONATION!

NOT
SO FAST!

AS FIRST-BORN,
I ASSERT MY
RIGHT TO THE
CROWN!

NO
REACTION
FROM
ANTOINE!

EITHER HE'S THE
COOLEST CUSTOMER
OR ELSE ELIAS IS
BARKING UP THE
WRONG TREE!

YOU REALIZE, OF
COURSE, THAT YOUR
STEP-CHILD IS
INELIGIBLE IN THE
LINE OF SUCCESSION,
ELIAS!

ONLY THE **BLOOD
ROYALE** MAY SIT
ON THE **THRONE!**

MY SON, YOU HAVE NO
IDEA HOW MUCH I'VE
LONGED FOR YOU
TO TAKE YOUR **RIGHT-
FUL PLACE!**

ARE YOU **SURE**
YOU WANT TO
DO THIS,
ELIAS?

I **ABANDONED**
THE CROWN
BECAUSE OF
LOVE--

AND NOW IT'S
**BECAUSE OF
LOVE--**

--THAT
I MUST
**ACCEPT
IT!**

KNEEL AS A
PRINCE, ELIAS,
HEIR TO THE
THRONE ACORN!

AND ARISE
KING ELIAS,
SOVEREIGN
OF ACORN!



I AM SO PROUD
OF YOU, MY SON!

--THEY WILL
EVENTUALLY
HAVE TO BE
DISPOSED OF IN
ORDER TO SECURE
MY POSITION!

BUT NOW, IN
PLAIN SIGHT
OF EVERY-
ONE, I'LL
ELIMINATE
ZEE
PRINCE--

SINCE ELIAS
WAS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY
EITHER HIS WIFE OR CHILD--
CORRECTION: STEP-CHILD--

--WITHOUT ANYONE BEING
AWARE THAT A SIMPLE
HANDSHAKE WILL BE
ZEE CATALYST.

AND I
AS WELL,
ELIAS!

YOU HAVE
MY FULL AND
TOTAL
SUPPORT!



I'M SPEECHLESS!
THANK YOU, SALLY!

ALLOW ME TO EXTEND
MY CONGRATULATIONS
AS WELL, YOUR HIGHNESS!

SOME-
THING'S
SHINY IN
TWAN'S
HAND--



LOOKS
SHARP
--LIKE A
BLADE,
OR--OR--

GET BACK, YOUR
HIGHNESS!



A HYPO-
DERMIC
NEEDLE!

WHADDYA BET
IT'S NOTHING
YOU'D WANNA GET
STUCK WITH!?

UNSPEAKABLE
DOG!!!

WOOF!

I'LL
SEE
YOU THROWN
INTO ZHE
DUNGEONS
FOR ZHIS!!!

WHEN
ZEE
SUBJECTS
LEARN ZHEIR
SO-CALLED
HERO IS
NOTHING BUT
A SNIVELING
TRAITOR!

--ZHEY WILL
DEMAND I
PERSONALLY
THROW AWAY
ZHE KEY!

THEY
SURE
WILL--

--ONCE I
SHOW EVERY-
ONE WHAT A
PHONY YOU
ARE!

YOU DARE BESMIRCH
ZE NAME
D'COO--

UGH!

ANTOINE, MAYBE!
BUT NOT OUR ANTOINE!

FOR ONE
THING, HE
WAS NO
GREAT
SHAKES AS A
FIGHTER--

--AND HE TOTALLY
LACKED A KILLER
INSTINCT!

BUT
Y'KNOW WHAT
THE REAL
CLINCHER
WAS?

WHEN NO ONE--
NOT EVEN BUNNIE--
COULD EXPLAIN
HOW YOU GOT
THAT SCAR!

ONCE
I ADDED
TWO PLUS
TWO--

--IT ONLY
EQUALED
ONE THING!...
YOU'RE EVIL
ANTOINE!

SO I'M
TAKING YOU **BACK**
WHERE YOU
BELONG!

I'M
SURE YOU
RECOGNIZE
THIS DOO-
DAD!*

*INDEED,
ANTOINE SHOULD,
AS REVEALED IN
SONIC # 150.

BEFORE
LONG, ON
ANOTHER
MOBIUS IN
ANOTHER
ZONE...

PSST!
HEY,
TWAN!

YOU'RE
GOING
HOME!

LET'S JUST SAY
OUR **FRIEND**
ISN'T THE
COYOTE
YOU ARE!

THIS
ISN'T A
DREAM?
WE CAN
REALLY...

YO,
WAKE
UP!

OH, SONIC--
YOU ARE TRULY
MON AMI!

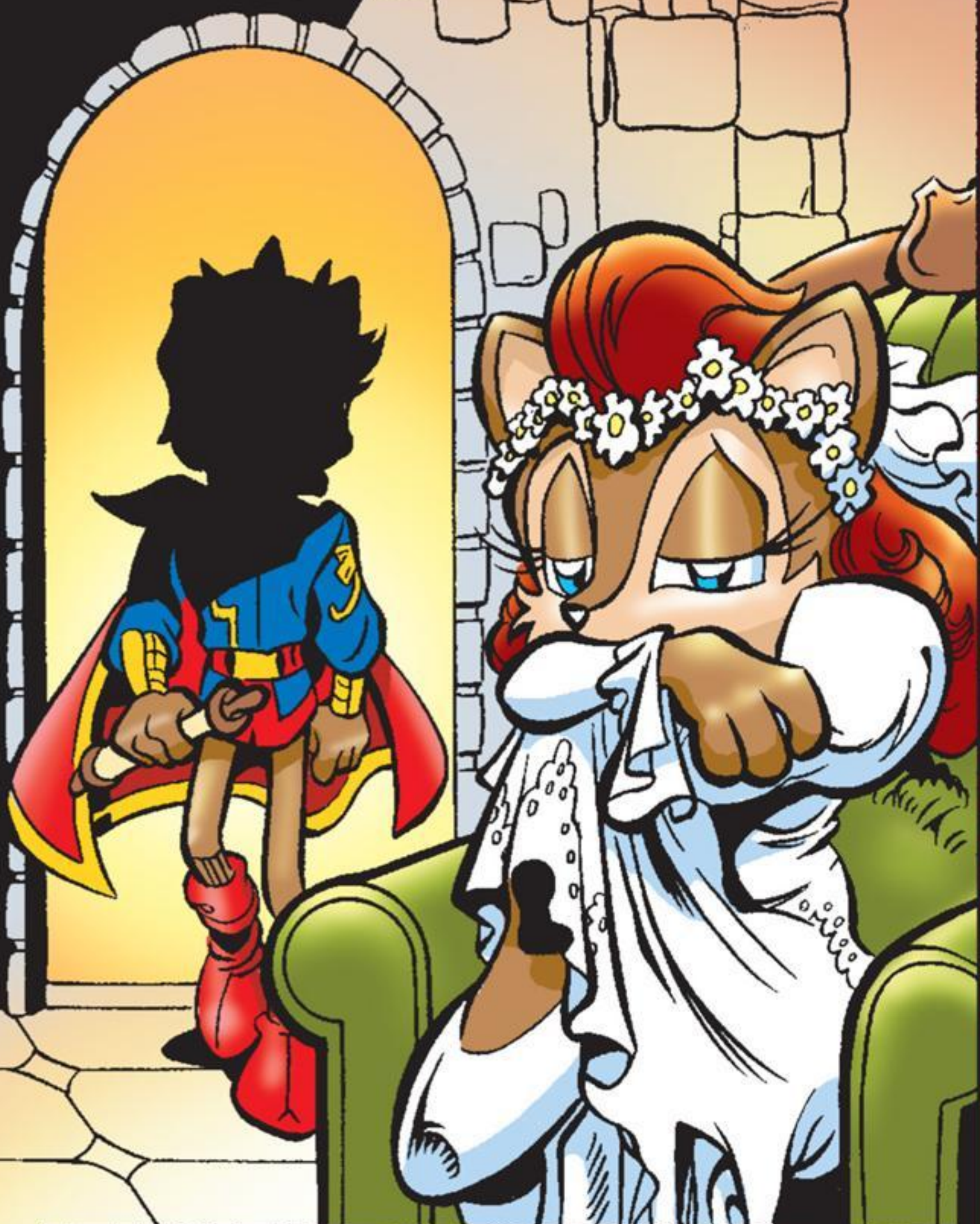
BUT HOW DID
YOU **LEARN** OF MY
PREDICAMENT?

...GET
BACK?

WITH THIS SPIFFY
ZONE-LINK
GENERATOR,
I CERTAINLY
HOPE SO!

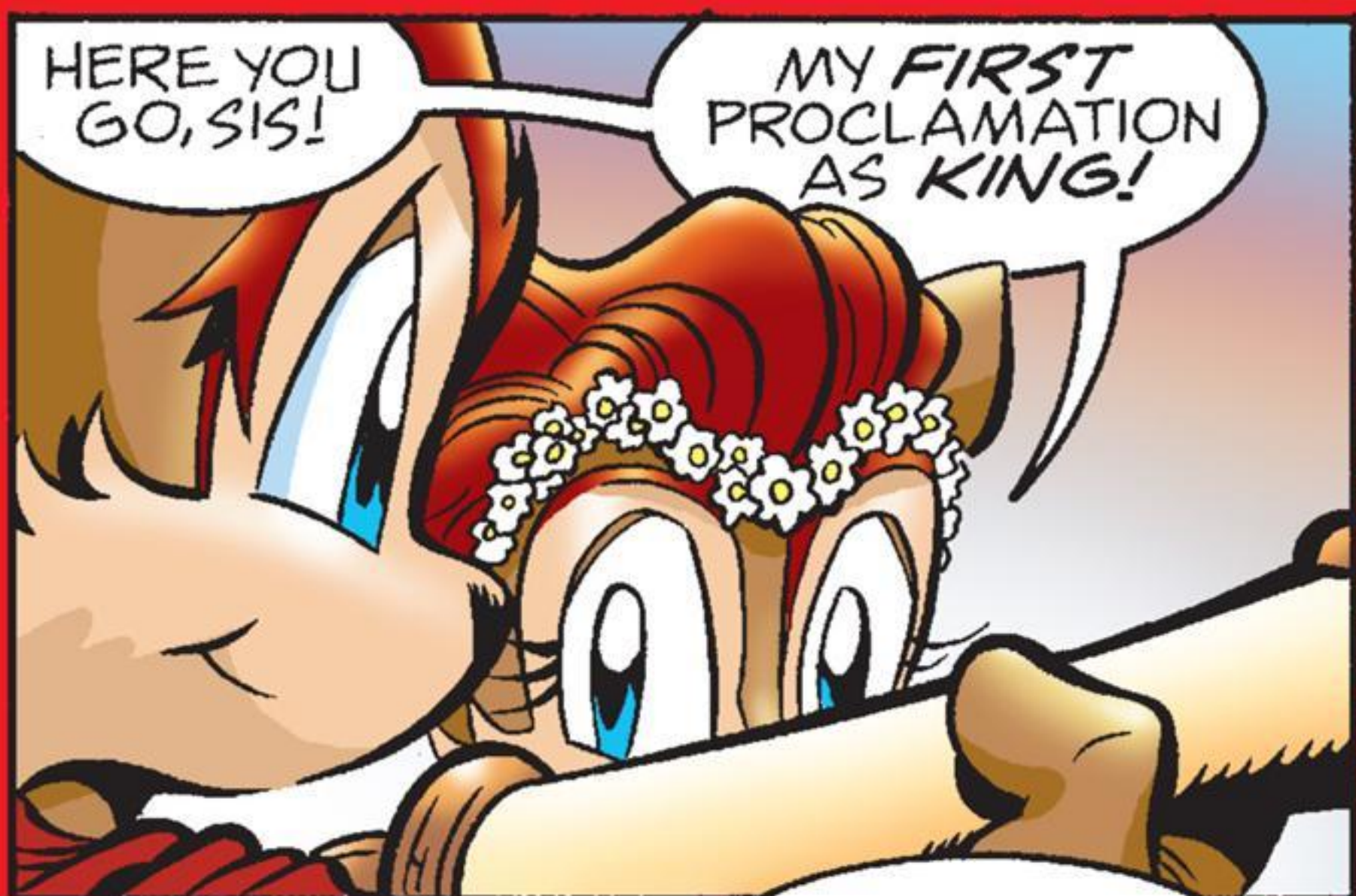
BESIDES--

"--IT'S TIME THE GOOD GUYS HAD A HAPPY ENDING FOR A CHANGE!"

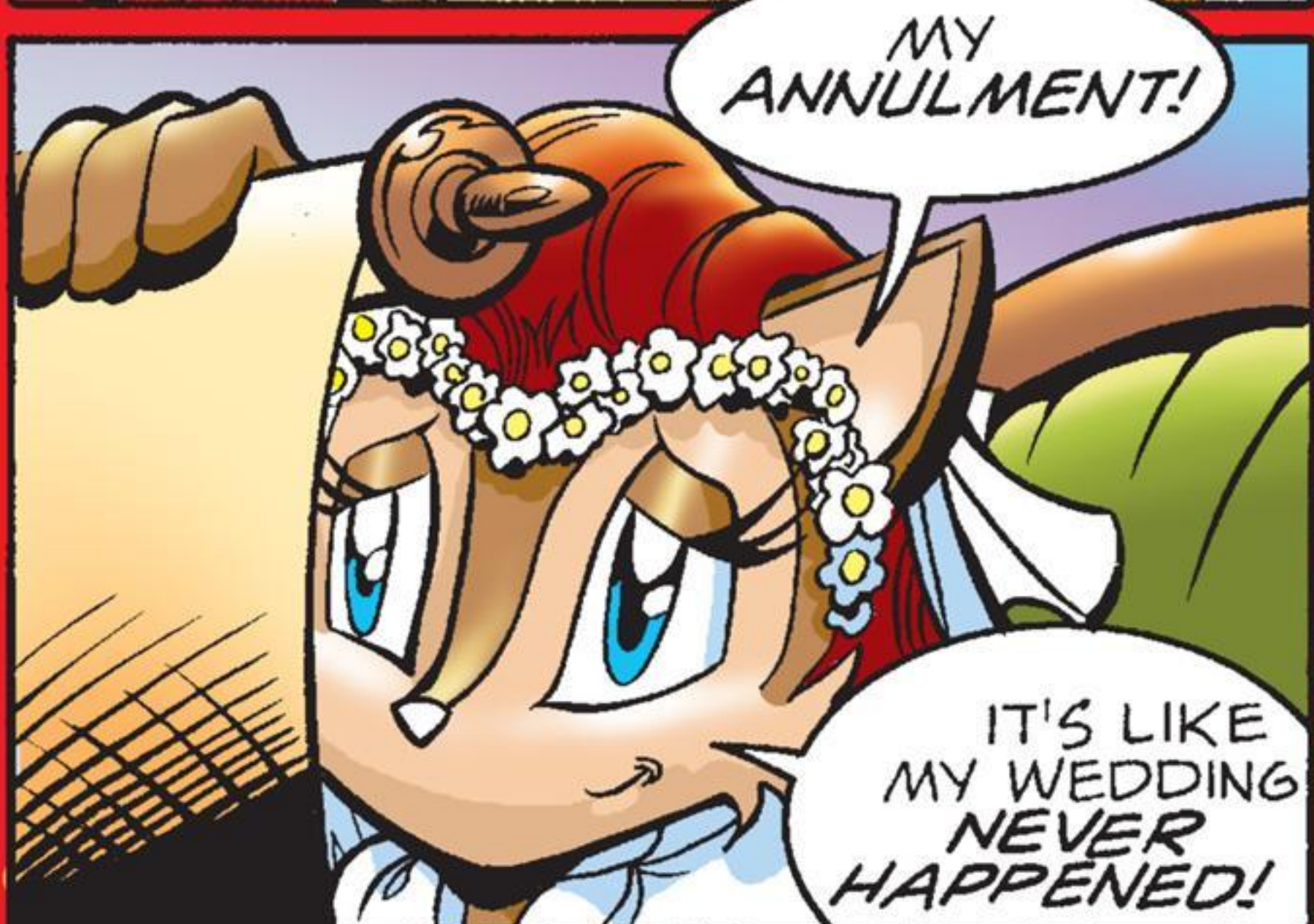


HERE YOU GO, SIS!

MY FIRST PROCLAMATION AS KING!



MY ANNULMENT!



IT'S LIKE MY WEDDING NEVER HAPPENED!

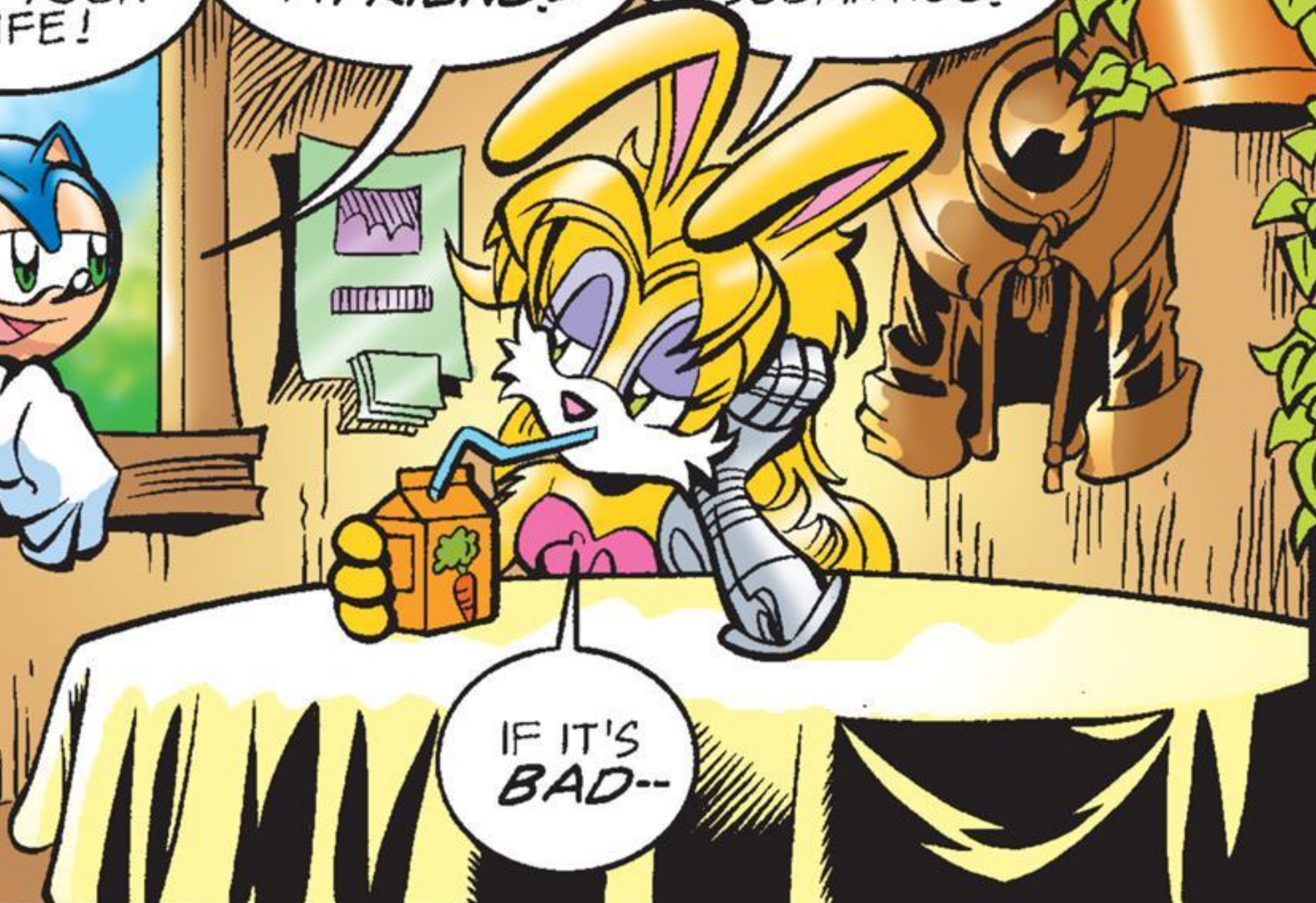
A FAIR POINT--

-- BUT NOW YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO--

--WITH THE *TRUE LOVE* OF YOUR LIFE!

HEY, BABE, GOT A MINUTE FOR A FRIEND?

IF IT'S *GOOD* NEWS, WHY, YEAH, SUGAH HOG!



IF IT'S *BAD*--

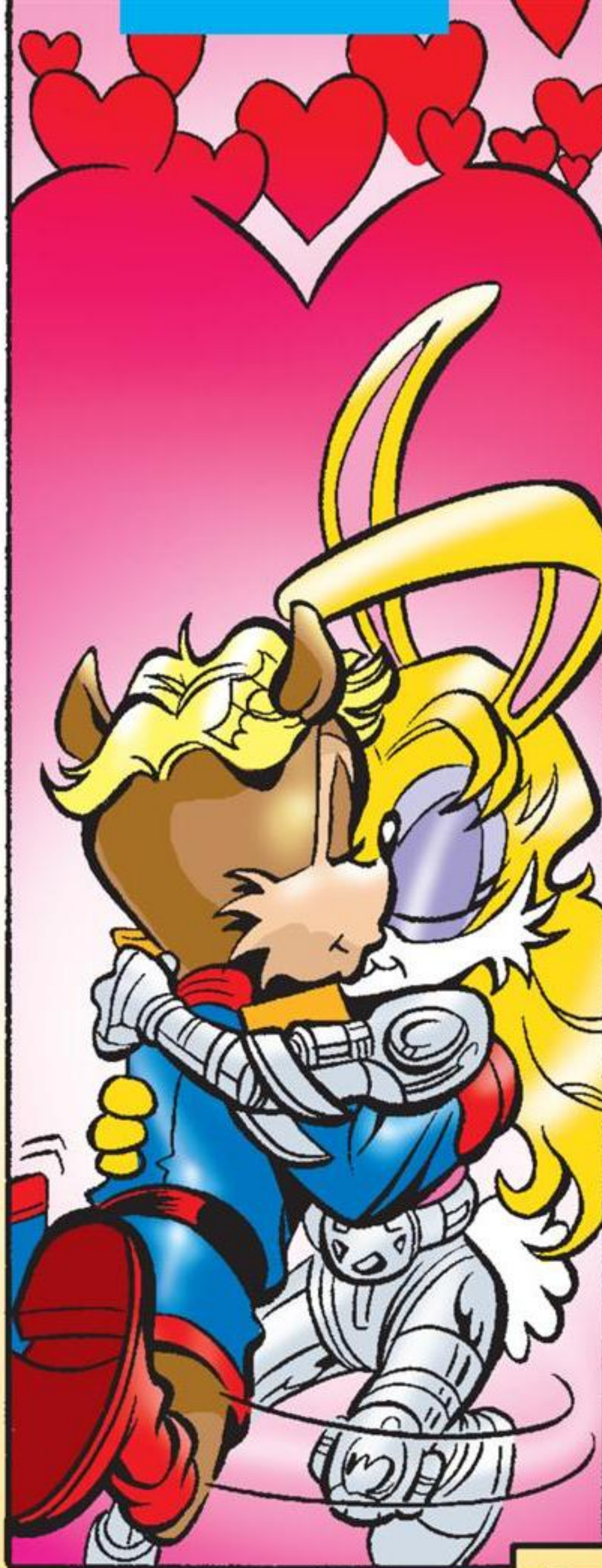
--I'M NOT SURE I WANNA KNOW--

--ESPECIALLY AFTER THE *RUCKUS* WE HAD TO DEAL WITH AFTER YOU HAD CUT OUT!

THIS IS *BETTER* THAN GOOD!

C-MON--





SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

PRESENTS

DULCY THE DRAGON

THE PRICE OF FLAME PART TWO

SURRENDER AND ACCEPT
ROBOTICIZATION! RESIST AND
YOU PERISH! THIS VOLCANO AND
ITS VAST ENERGY RESOURCES
NOW BELONG TO ROBOTNIK!

HEY, EVERYBODY--
LAST ISSUE WE LEARNED A
LOT ABOUT DULCY. WE ALSO
LEARNED THAT PROTECTED
UNDER THE PLANET BY DISTANCE
AND ANCIENT MAGIC, ROBOTICIZED
DRAGONS HAD SURVIVED!
ROBOTNIK, HAS USED THE ROBIAN
DRAGONS TO ATTACK THE
LAST OF THE FREE DRAGONS
LIVING INSIDE THE VOLCANO
HOME OF THE SECRET
CITY OF VESUVIUS!

SOUND
THE
ALARM!

ALERT
THE
ELDERS!

GET
THE CHILDREN
TO SAFETY!

*You saw it last
issue. If not, go
get one... We'll
wait!--Mikeditor

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DRAWS: ART MAWHINNEY
INKS/LETTERS: MIKE HIGGINS
COLORS: JASON JENSEN

OOOHHH... I'M SORRY,
Z-ZUH-ZAN... IT WAS
MY FUH-FAULT*... UHHH--
WHAT THE--?! THAT
SUH-SOUND---

**THRRAK
PYOW**

*A reference to her abusive
domestic partner as seen
in STH #107. --MP

A/EEEE!

MY GOSH
NOW I
REMEMBER--
MECHA-
DRAGONS!
VESUVIO'S
BEING
ATTACKED!

TZZIOT

EEEEYAH!

NOW JOIN
OUR MECHA-WORLD,
CHILD!

NO--
PLEASE
DON'T!

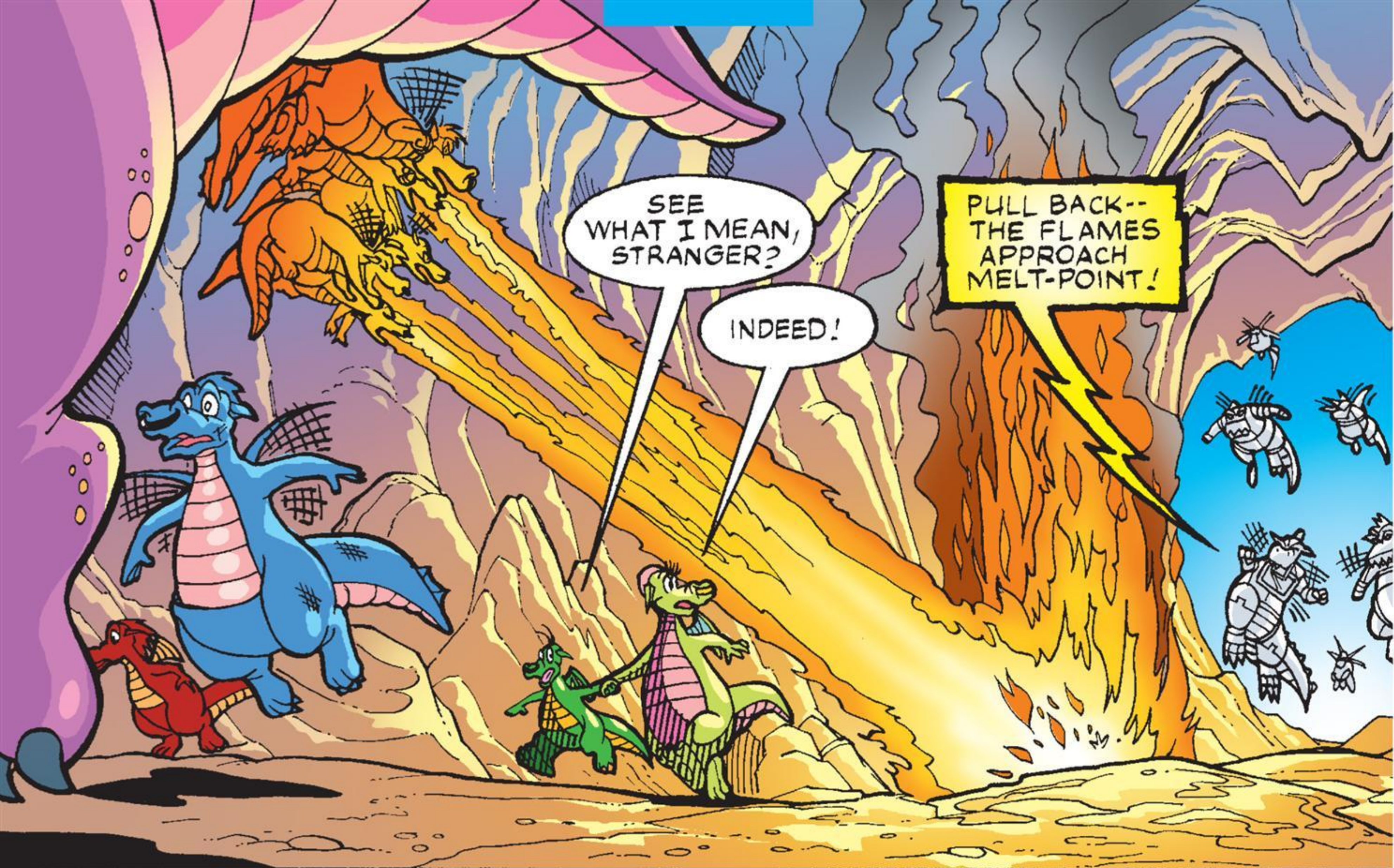
BACK
OFF, ROBO-
BULLY!

WHAROOM

THANKS, STRANGER! MY NAME'S
SPARKY. I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOU,
BUT HURRY! THE DEFENDERS ARE
ABOUT TO LAY DOWN A
SUPPRESSING FIRE!

??

**BZZT-
SQUAWK!**



SEE WHAT I MEAN, STRANGER?

INDEED!

PULL BACK-- THE FLAMES APPROACH MELT-POINT!

THAT'S A PRETTY AWESOME DEFENSIVE STRATEGY!

YES, BUT THEY CAN'T KEEP IT UP FOREVER! WE NEED A BATTLE PLAN! CAN YOU HELP US STRANGER?



WE WANT NO HELP FROM YOU, DULCINEA!

GLINT!



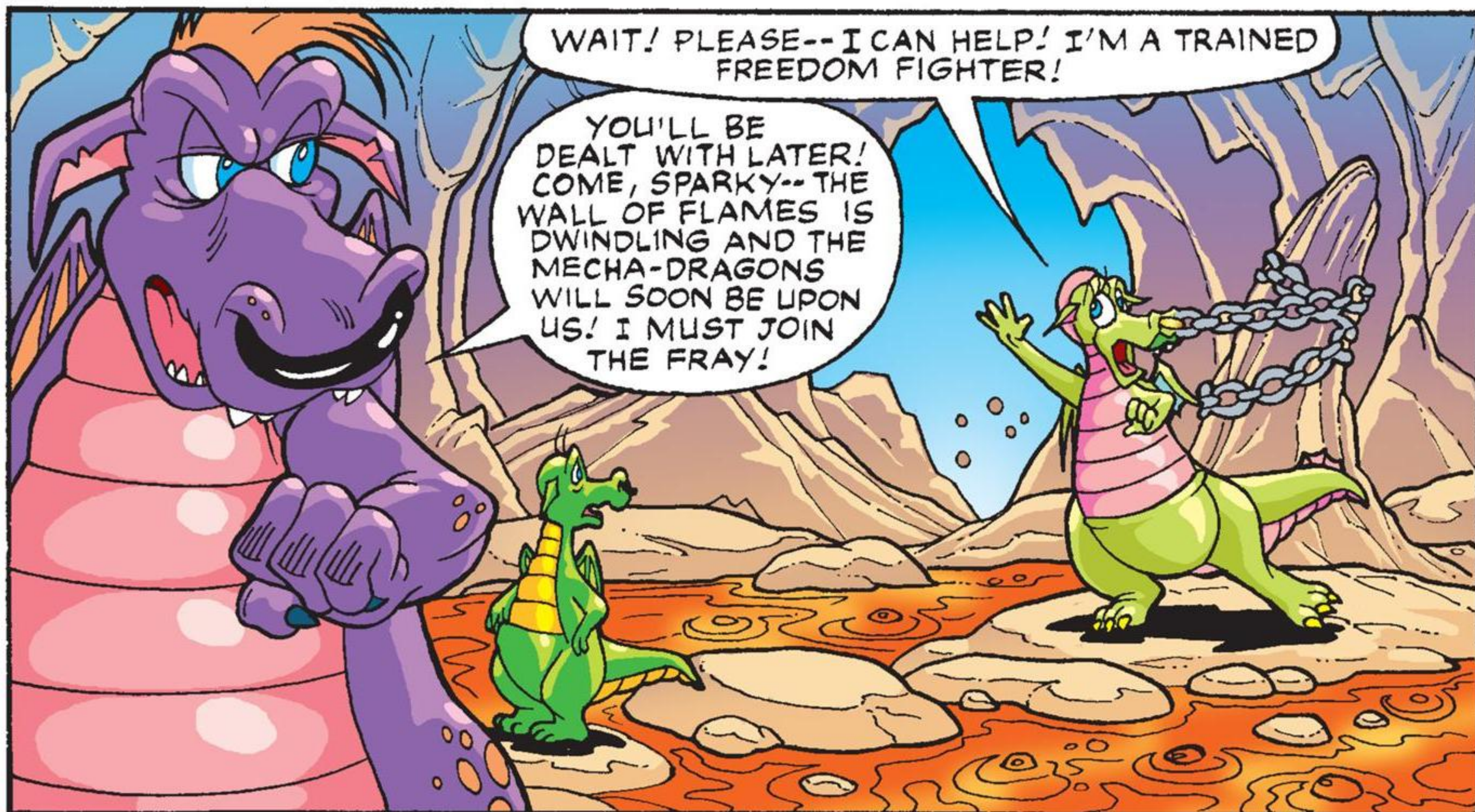
TRAITOROUS WENCH! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INVASION OF UPPERWORLDERS! TAKE HER TO THE PILLORY AT ONCE!

NO! GRENDL, STOP! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! SHE SAVED ME!

OW! OW! OW!

SILENCE, SPARKY! YOU RISK MUCH, EVEN IN THIS TIME OF CRISIS!





WAIT! PLEASE-- I CAN HELP! I'M A TRAINED FREEDOM FIGHTER!

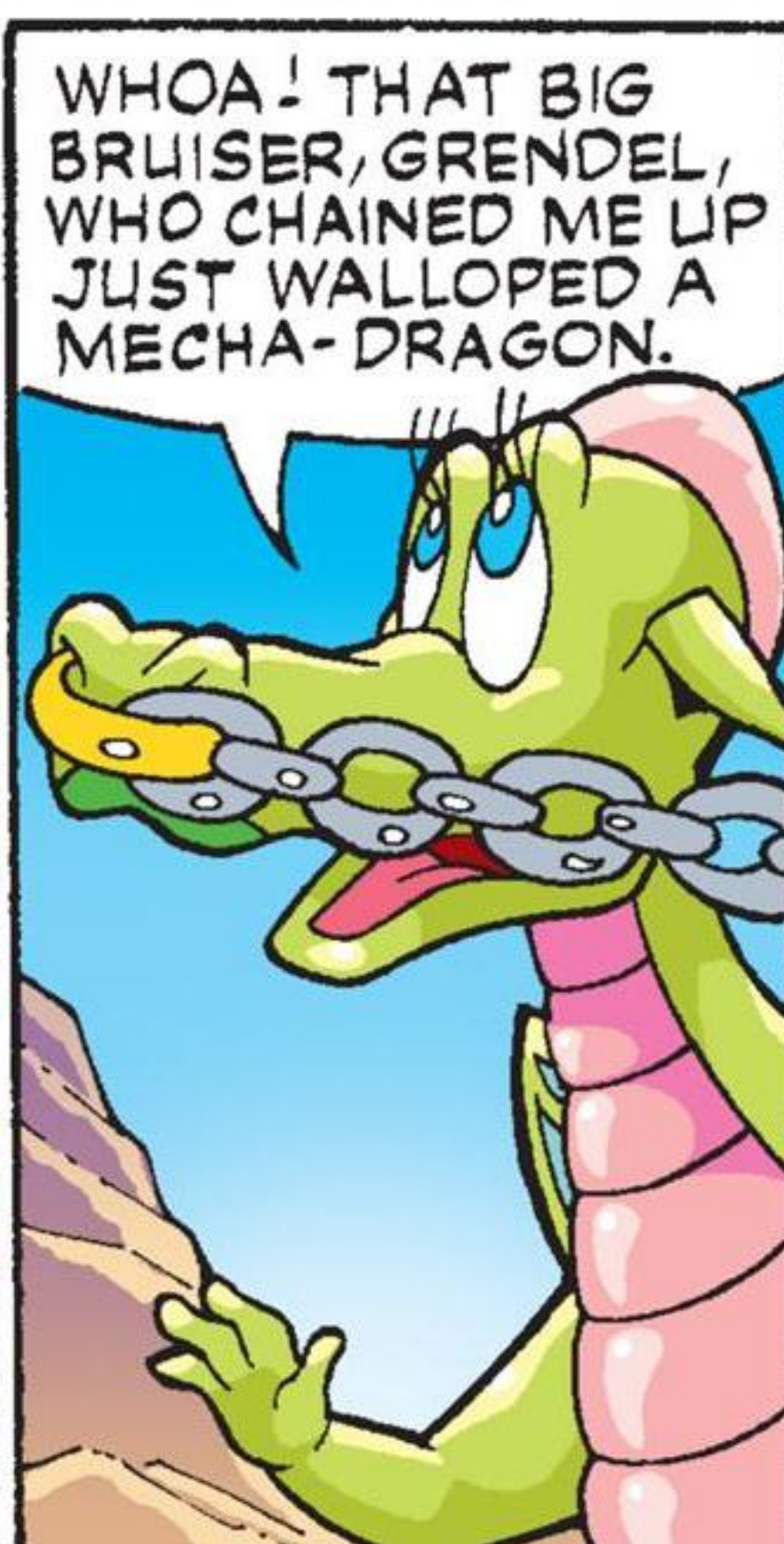
YOU'LL BE DEALT WITH LATER! COME, SPARKY-- THE WALL OF FLAMES IS DWINDLING AND THE MECHA-DRAGONS WILL SOON BE UPON US! I MUST JOIN THE FRAY!



HE'S RIGHT! THEY COULDN'T MAINTAIN THE FLAME WALL-- HERE COME THE MECHA-DRAGONS!



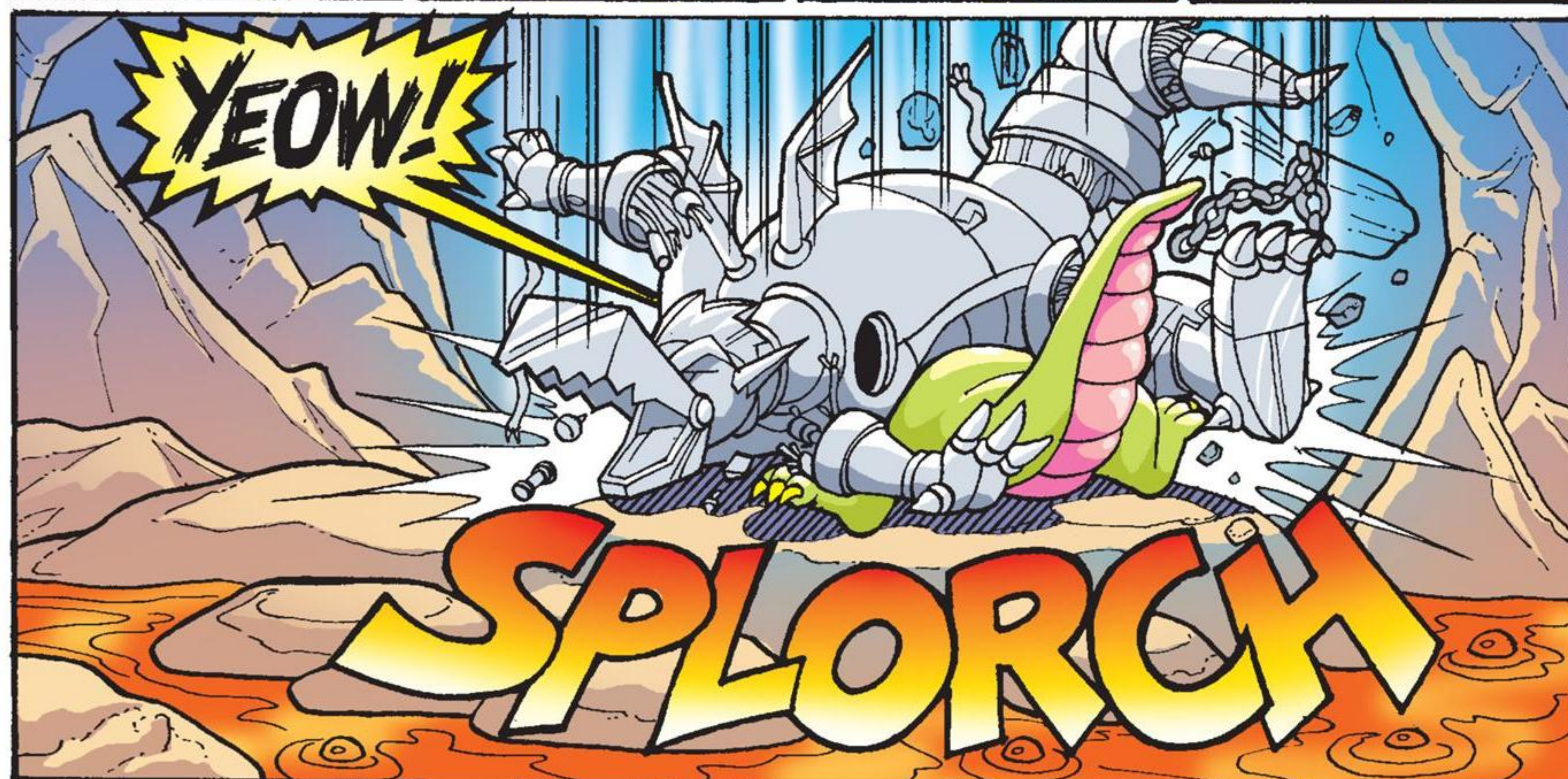
THE VESUVIANS ARE PUTTING UP A GOOD FIGHT, BUT LOTS OF THEM ARE GETTING ROBOTICIZED!



WHOA! THAT BIG BRUISER, GRENDEL, WHO CHAINED ME UP JUST WALLOPED A MECHA-DRAGON.

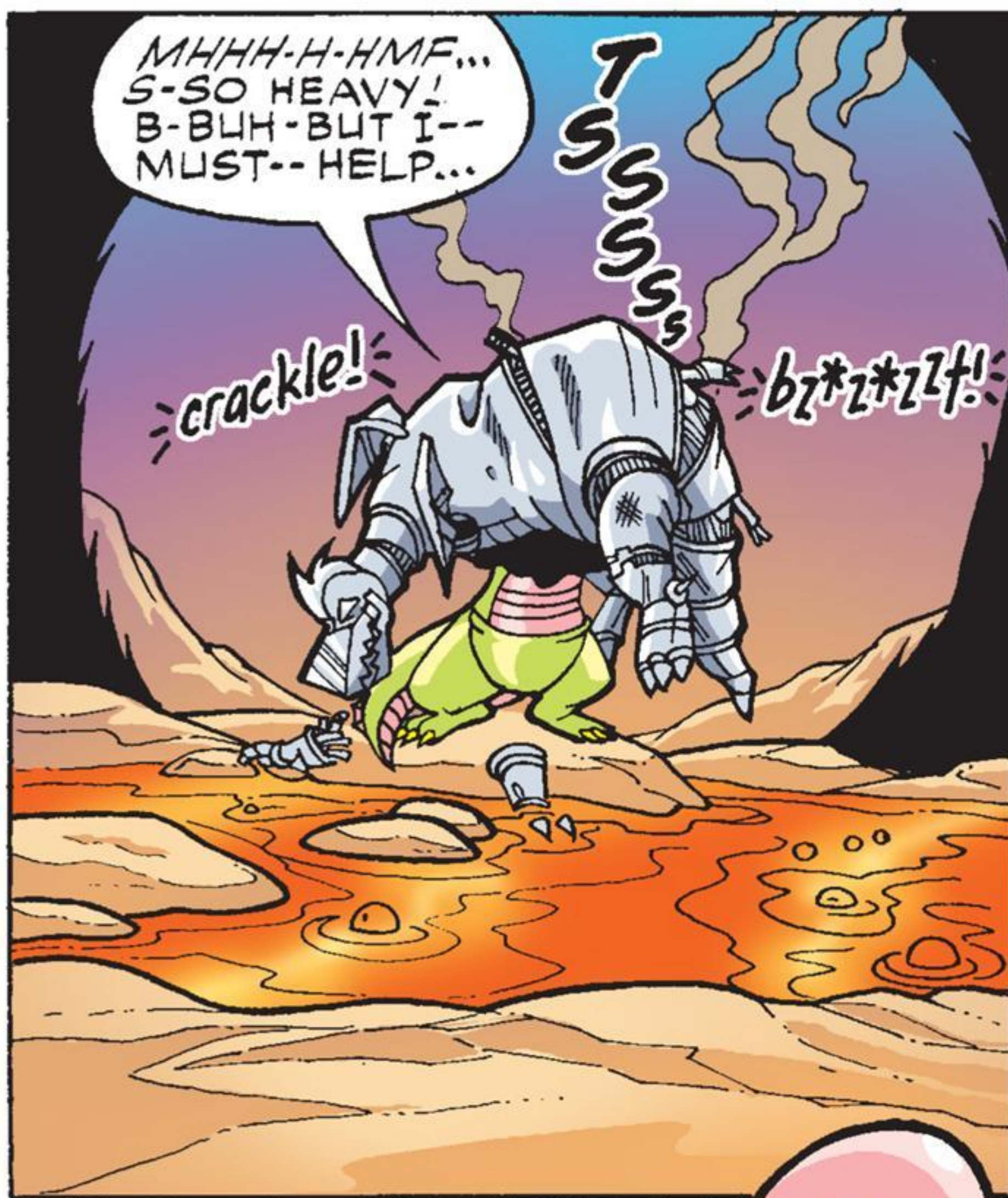


IT'S SPIRALING OUT OF THE SKY... IT'S GOING TO CRASH... Uh-Oh... IT'S HEADED RIGHT FOR ME!



YEOW!

SPLORCH

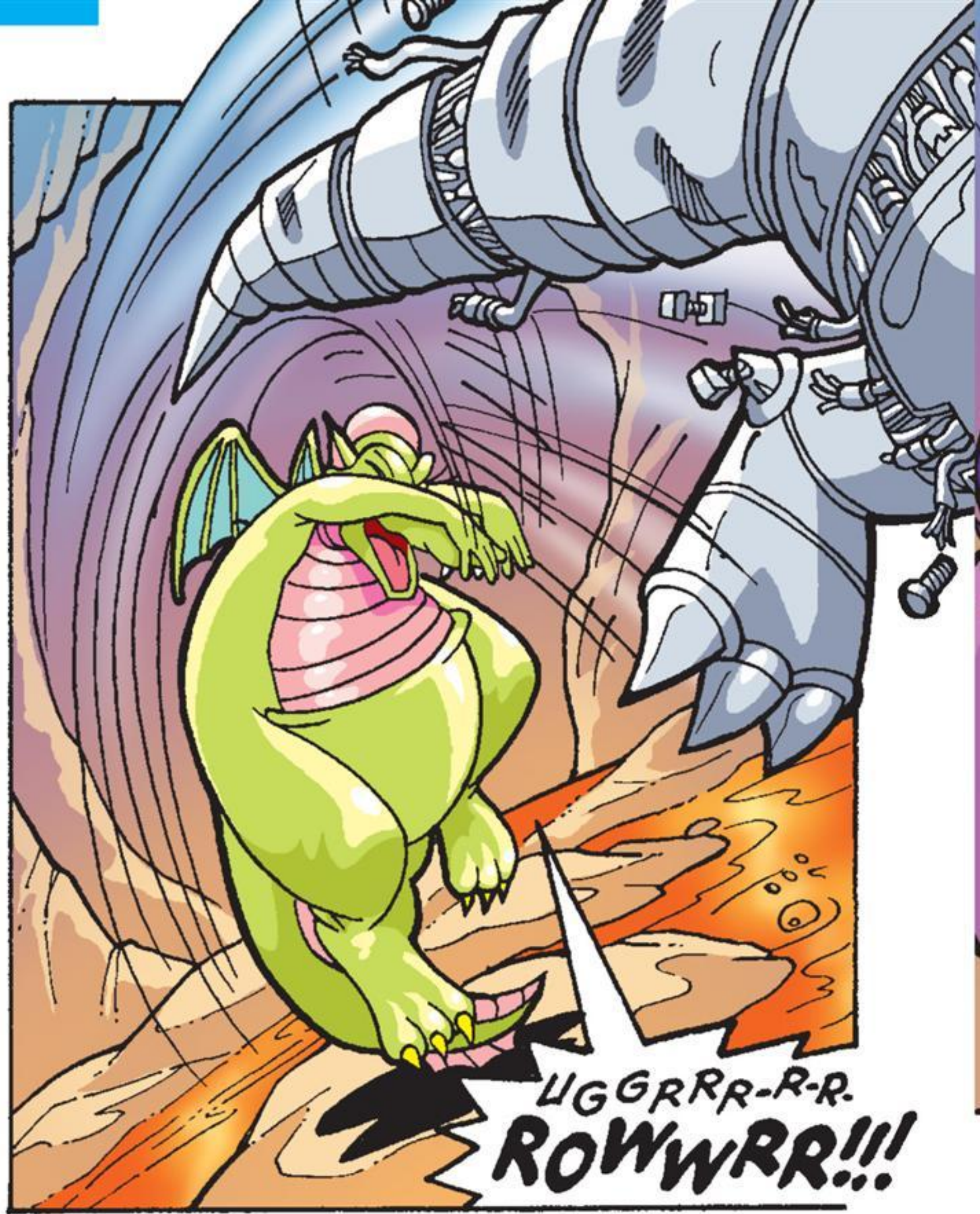


MHHH-H-HMF...
S-SO HEAVY!
B-BUH-BUT I--
MUST-- HELP...

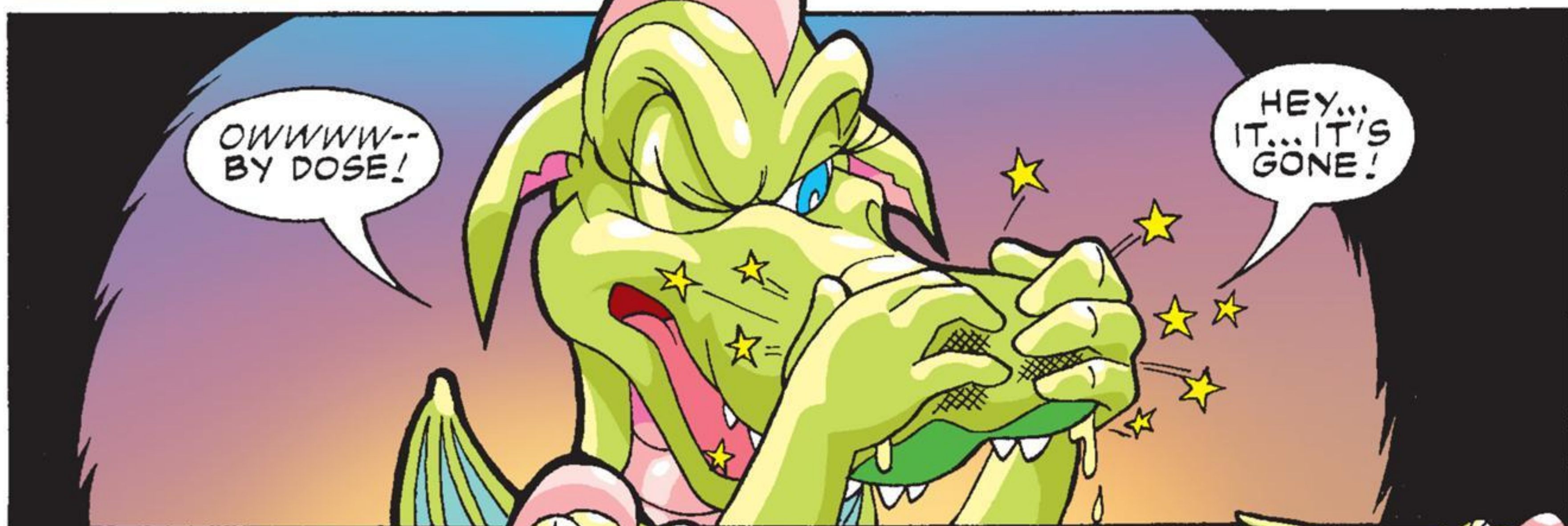
crackle!

TSSSS

bz*z*z!f!

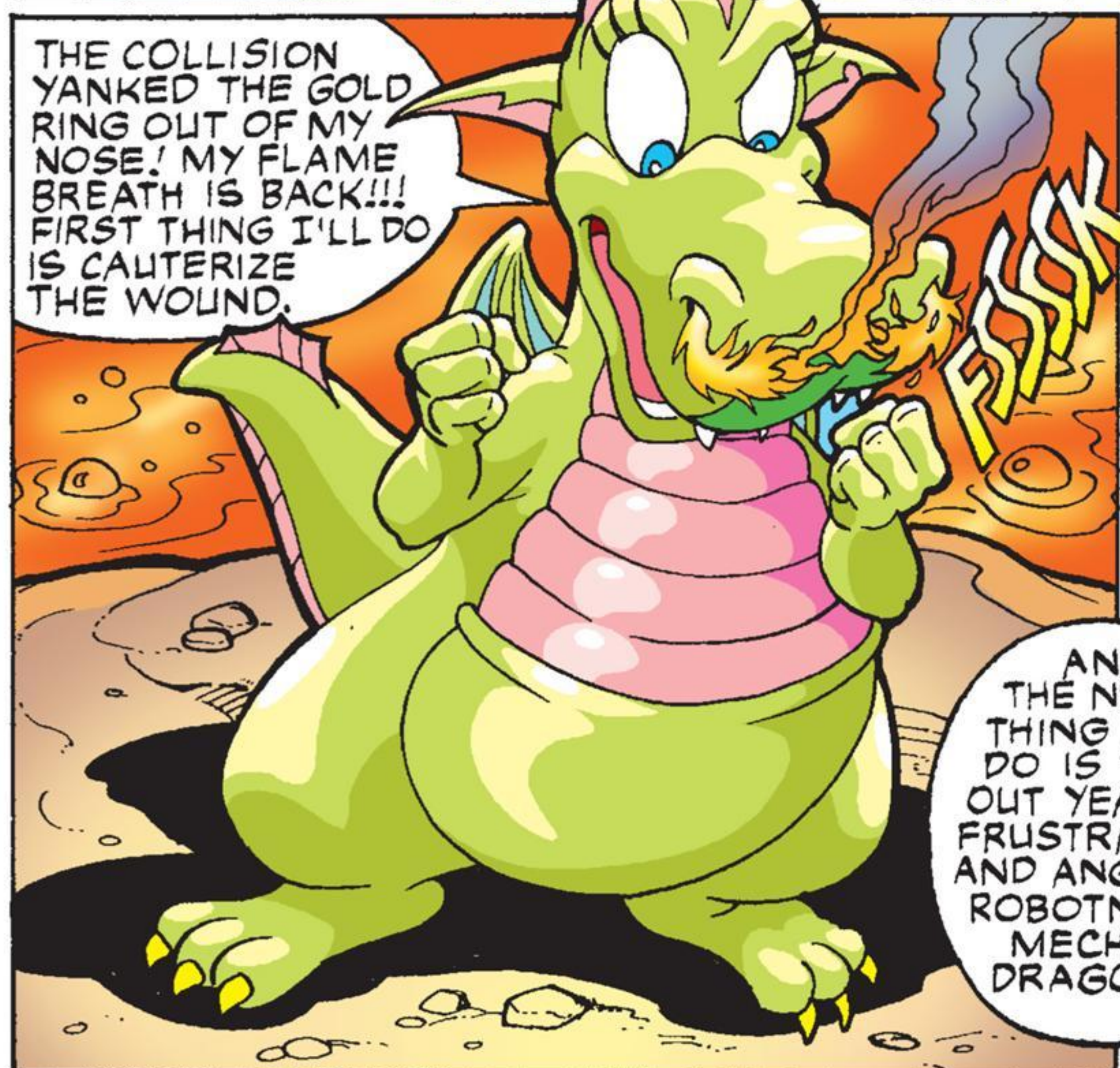


UGGRRR-R-R.
ROWWRR!!!



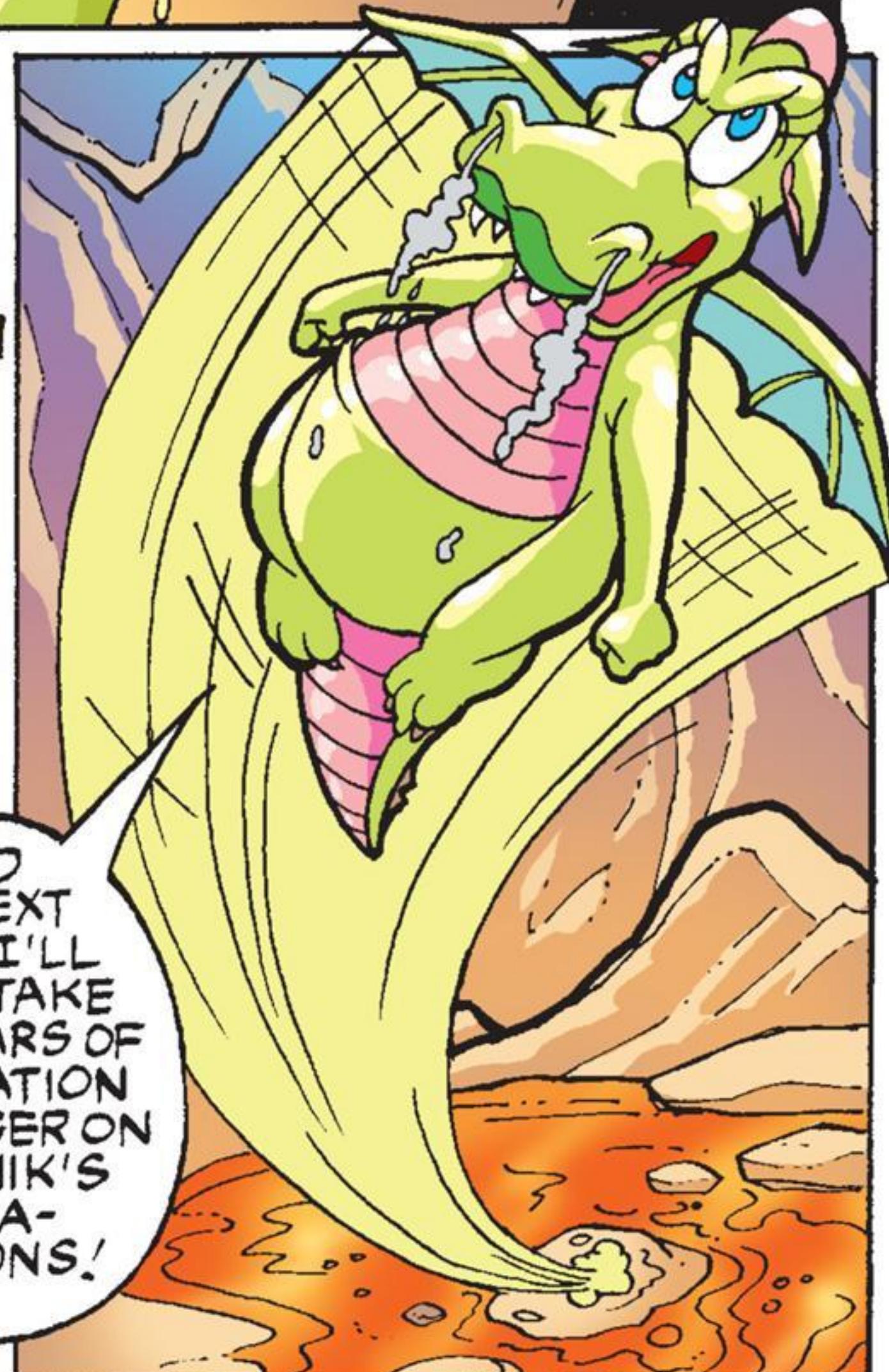
OWWWW--
BY DOSE!

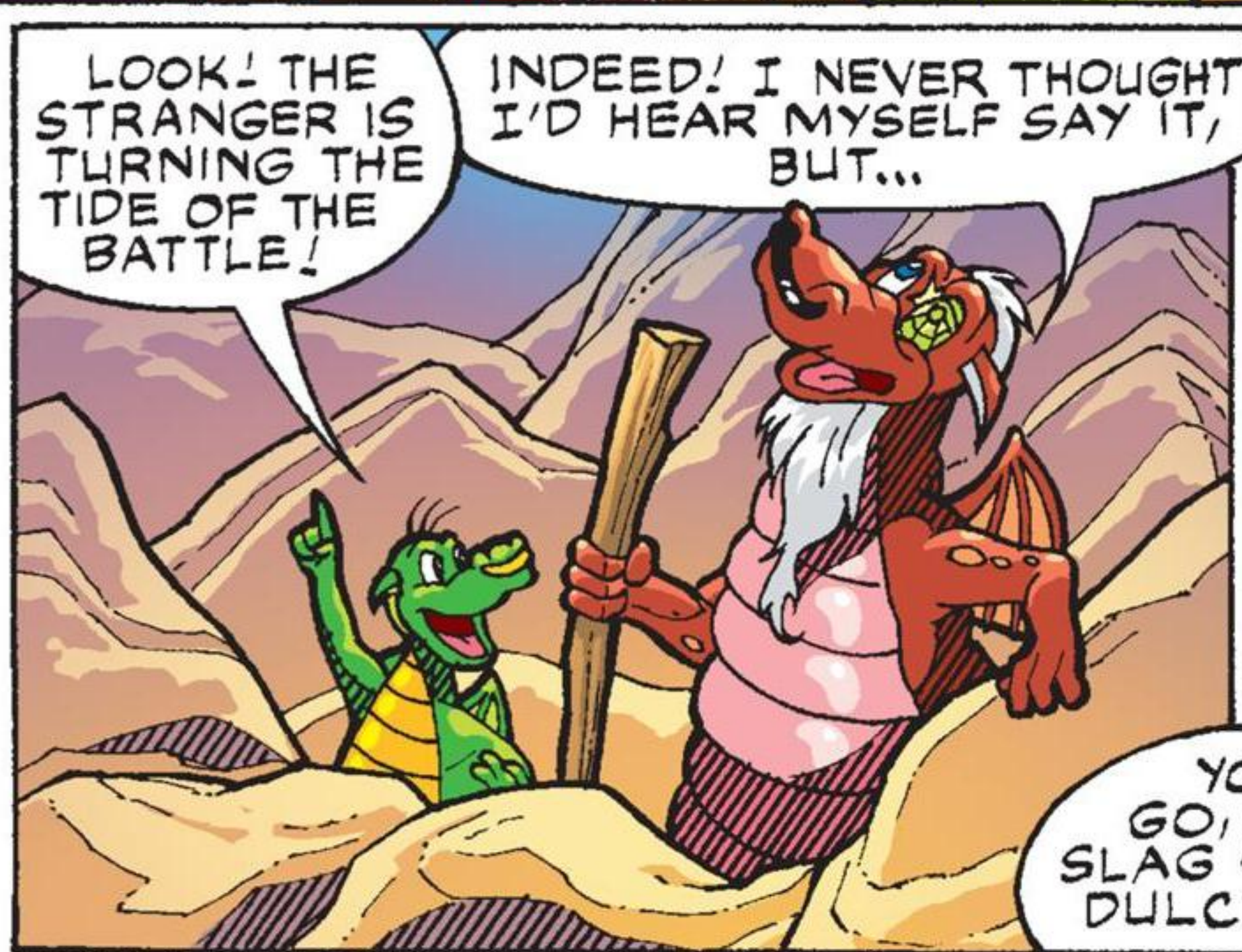
HEY...
IT... IT'S
GONE!



THE COLLISION
YANKED THE GOLD
RING OUT OF MY
NOSE! MY FLAME
BREATH IS BACK!!!
FIRST THING I'LL DO
IS CAUTERIZE
THE WOUND.

AND
THE NEXT
THING I'LL
DO IS TAKE
OUT YEARS OF
FRUSTRATION
AND ANGER ON
ROBOTNIK'S
MECHA-
DRAGONS!





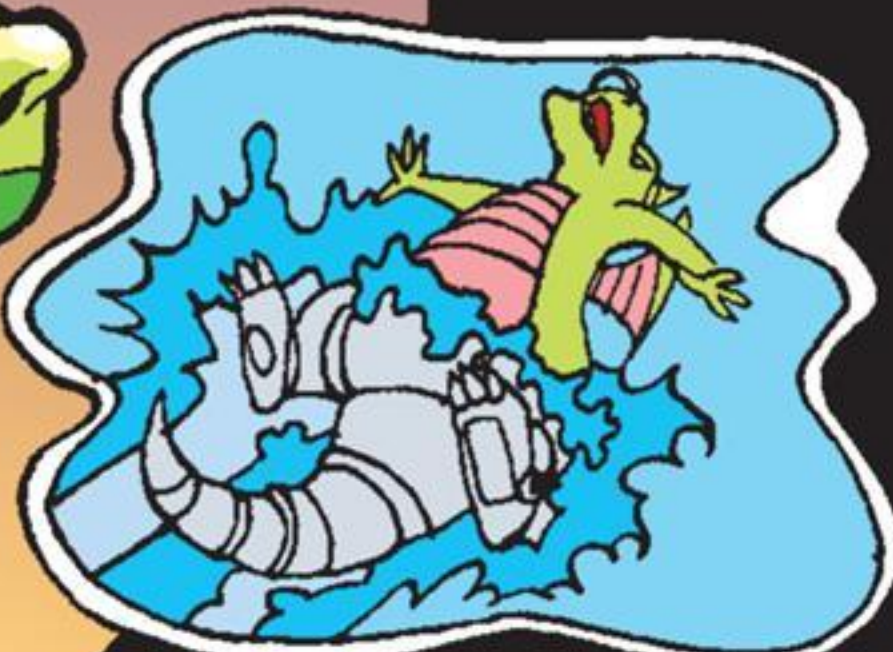
A SHORT TIME
LATER...

LOOK, DULCY... THE MOLTEN
REMAINS OF THE MECHA
DRAGONS ARE STREAMING INTO
LAVA LAKE. ALL OF VESUVIO
THANKS YOU. WHY DO YOU
SEEM SO SAD?

≡ SNIFFLE ≡
IT'S JUST
THAT...

KSSSSHHH

≡ CHOKES ≡ THOSE MECHA-
DRAGONS WERE ALL
ALIVE ONCE ≡ SOB ≡
INCLUDING MY MOTHER.
≡ HUCK ≡ AND BY MELTING
THEM, I RUINED ANY
CHANCE THAT THEY
MIGHT SOMEDAY
RETURN!



AN UNDERSTANDABLE
SENTIMENT, BUT
FORTUNATELY
UNFOUNDED...
OBSERVE!

YOU SEE? A DRAGON'S SPIRIT IS ETERNAL.
INSTEAD OF PASSING AWAY, IT RETURNS
TO THE PRIMAL FIRE AND WILL BE REBORN
IN AN UPCOMING GENERATION. YOUR
MOTHER AND ALL THE OTHERS WILL
BE BACK!

≡ SOB ≡ TH-THAT'S
W-WONDERFUL!

A SHORT TIME
LATER...

DULCINEA, THE DECISION
OF THE VESUVIO COUNCIL IS
UNANIMOUS. SPARKY-- STEP
FORWARD!

A FULL PARDON IS
GRANTED AND YOUR
CITIZENSHIP IS
RENEWED.

SNAP

MOREOVER,
YOU SHALL BE
OUR OFFICIAL
"AMBASSADOR"
TO THE UPPER-
WORLD WHERE
WE HOPE TO
SOMEDAY
RETURN.

MOST
IMPORTANT OF
ALL, YOUR BLACK
SINGE RING IS
HEREBY RESTORED.
CARRY THE FLAME
PROUDLY.

THANK
YOU--
I
SHALL!

THE END

SHADOW RETURNS IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #157, ON SALE 12/28/05!
PLUS GET THE NEWEST SONIC COMIC SERIES, SONIC X #4, ON SALE 12/14/05